

Message Text

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TAGS: CDES CASC MX (WILLIAMS, WILLIAM)

SUBJECT: W/W HERMOSILLO PRESS REPORTING OF DEATH OF AMERICAN
PRISONER WILLIAM WILLIAMS AT NOGALES

REF: HERMOSILLO 32

1. FOLLOWING IS TEST OF TRANSLATION OF TWO ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN
JANUARY 24 AND JANUARY 25 EDITIONS OF EL IMPARCIAL, LEADING DAILY
NEWSPAPER IN SONORA.

2. QUOTE JANUARY 24: SUSPICIOUS DEATH OF ONE OF NOGALES PRISON
ESCAPEES. NOGALES - WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS, FEDERAL PRISONER WHO
ESCAPED FROM THE REHABILITATION CENTER ON THE 18 IN COMPANY
OF TOM NEWSOME, AND WERE RECPTURED THE NEXT DAY, WAS FOUND
DEAD YESTERDAY MORNING IN HIS CELL.

THE DEATH OF THE PRISONER BECAME KNOWN TO THE JUDICIAL
AUTHORITIES TOWARD NOON, WHEN SEVERAL PRISON GUARDS BROUGHT
THE BODY TO THE NORIEGA FUNERAL HOME.

THE CORPS HAD A FRACTURE OF THE FEMUR OF THE RIGHT LEG. EXCORIA
TIONS OF THE RIGHT LEG, AND A HEMATOMA OF THE LEFT EYE, ACCORDING
TO THE REPORT MADE TO THE MUNICIAPL POLICE.

LICENCIADO VIRGILIO MONTENEGRO, LOCAL PROSECUTOR, INFORMED
EL IMPARCIAL THAT HE HAD ORDERED AN AUTOPSY AND HAD STARTED
AN INVESTIGATION TO ESTABLISH THE CAUSE OF DEATH OF THE PRISONER.
THE DIRECTOR OF THE REHABILITATION CENTER SAID THAT WILLIAMS
WAS FOUND DEAD AT SEVEN AM BY HIS CELLMATE CLINT MONTGOMERY; THAT HE
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WAS ILL, SUFFERING FORM ULCERS AND HEPATITIS, AND THAT HE

FRACTURED HIS LEG WHEN HE JUMPED THE PRISON WALL DURING HIS ESCAPE WITH NEWSOME.

WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS, AGE 27, ENTERED PRISON ON JANUARY 28, 1975, AND ON JUNE 31 (SIC) WAS SENTENCED TO SIX YEARS IN PRISON FOR A NARCOTICS OFFENSE BY THE JUDGE OF THE SECOND DISTRICT COURT. HE WAS FROM TUCSON, ARIZONA, WHERE HIS FAMILY WERE INFORMED YESTERDAY OF HIS DEATH. UNQUOTE

3. QUOTE JANUARY 25: IN DEPTH INVESTIGATION OF THE DEATH OF PRISONER WILLIAM WILLIAMS. NOGALES - BY ORDER OF STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL CESAR TAPIA QUIJADA, LICENCIADO JORGE E. CASTRO QUINTERO ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY TO CARRY OUT AN "IN-DEPTH INVESTIGATION" OF THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF THE NORTHAMERICAN PRISONER WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS, WHICH OCCURRED DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY IN THE SOCIAL REHABILITATION CENTER.

MINUTES AFTER HIS ARRIVAL HERE, MR. CASTRO QUINTERO, IN HIS CAPACITY OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, QUESTIONED AT THE PRISON, TOM NEWSOME, WHO HAD ESCAPED WITH WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS, ONLY TO VERIFY THE PRISON'S OFFICIAL VERSION OF WILLIAMS' INJURIES AND FRACTURE OF HIS LEG WHEN THEY JUMPED THE WALL OF THE PRISON ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR ESCAPE. ALSO AT THE PRISON, THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR, IN THE PRESENCE OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, QUESTIONED THE FIVE AMERICAN PRISONERS WHO HAD COMPLAINED TO THE AUTHORITIES OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA OF PHYSICAL ABUSE AND TORTURE, BUT THE PRISONERS REFUSED TO GIVE THE NAMES OF THEIR AGGRESSORS, FOR WHICH REASON THEY WERE GIVEN MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS, AND THE DOCTOR FOUND NO TRACES OF BLOWS ON THE BODIES OF THE PRISONERS.

LICENCIADO CASTRO QUINTERO DID NOT DIVULGE THE RESULT OF THE INTERROGATION OF NEWSOME AND STATED THAT THE INVESTIGATION WOULD BE PURSUED TO THE END, WITHOUT CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSEQUENCE, AND THAT IT WILL CLEAR UP WHETHER THE DEATH OF WILLIAMS WAS DUE TO NATURAL CAUSES OR TO BLOWS RECEIVED IN THE PRISON.

THE SPECIAL ATTORNEY SAID THAT SAMPLES OF THE VITAL ORGANS OF THE DECEASED WOULD BE SENT TO HERMOSILLO TODAY FOR EXAMINATION BY A PATHOLOGIST. NEVERTHELESS, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WERE STILL URGING LAST NIGHT THAT THESE CLINICAL EBGMS BE CARRIED OUT IN TUCSON OR IN PHOENIX. UNQUOTE

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4. COMMENT; QUOTED PRESS REPORTS GENERALLY ACCURATE TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, EXCEPT; A) WILLIAMS FAMILY WAS NOT RPT NOT INFORMED OF DEATH FRIDAY JANUARY 23 AS ALLEGED; MOTHER HAD CHANGED RESIDENCE AND WILLIAMS HAD NOT INFORMED ANYONE OF CHANGE; B) PRISONERS HAD NOT COMPLAINED TO ARIZONA AUTHORITIES, BUT TO CONOFF, OF PHYSICAL ABUSE; C) REPORTER CONFUSES IDENTITY OF CONOFF - THERE WAS NO REPRESENTATIVE OF ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PRESENT; D) SOME TRACES OF BLOWS WERE FOUND, BUT PRISONERS REFUSED TO EXPLAIN

HOW THESE BLOWS HAD BEEN RECEIVED; E) THE AUTOPSY ON WILLIAMS
WAS PERFORMED MONDAY, JANUARY 26, NOT RPT NOT ON SUNDAY AS
IMPLIED; E) ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WAS NOT URGING
CLINICAL EXAMS BE CARRIED OUT IN U.S., BUT CONOFF SUGGESTED THEY
COULD BE DONE IN U.S. IF MEXICAN AUTHORITIES AGREED.
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